

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 EB-08  
FCC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-06 COME-00 BIB-01 ACDA-07  
DODE-00 PM-04 L-03 NASA-01 NSC-05 ERDA-05 OES-06 SS-15  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EURE-00 OIC-02 AF-08  
ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 /128 W  
-----101736Z 126748 /45

O R 101626Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5510  
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 02556

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ETEL ITU PFOR PGOV WB GW GE UR US UK FR  
SUBJECT: ITU BROADCAST SATELLITE CONFERENCE:  
SOVIET/GDR STATEMENTS ON BERLIN

REFS: (A) STATE 29638; (B) BONN 2378;  
(C) GENEVA 885; (D) KORNBLUM-GERMAN TELECON OF  
FEBRUARY 9

BEGIN SUMMARY. THERE IS STILL NO AGREED TEXT FOR AN  
ALLIED RESPONSE TO THE SOVIET AND GDR STATEMENTS ON  
BERLIN REPORTED IN REF (C). US, FRENCH, AND FRG REPS  
HAVE REJECTED CHANGES PROPOSED BY THE BRITISH, AND THE  
UK REP HAS REPORTED BACK TO LONDON. END SUMMARY.

1. AS REPORTED REF TELECON, THE UK REP (HITCH)  
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RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS ON THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 9,  
REQUESTING THAT PARA B OF THE AD REF TEXT IN REF (B)  
BE CHANGED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

"IT IS NOT CORRECT TO ASSERT THAT THE QUADRIPARTITE  
AGREEMENT DETERMINES THE STATUS OF WEST BERLIN.  
ALLIED RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN BERLIN DERIVE

FROM THE UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER OF GERMANY AND  
THE ASSUMPTION BY THE FOUR POWERS JOINTLY OF  
SUPREME AUTHORITY IN GERMANY."

2. AFTER US, FRENCH AND FRG REPS HAD CONFIRMED TO  
HITCH THAT THIS PROPOSED CHANGE WAS UNACCEPTABLE, THE  
UK EMBASSY CABLED LONDON EARLY FEBRUARY 10 TO URGE  
MODIFICATION OF BRITISH INSTRUCTIONS.

3. WHEN THE BONN GROUP MET EARLY THIS AFTERNOON  
(FEBRUARY 10), HITCH REPORTED THAT HIBBERT TOOK THE  
VIEW THAT IT WAS MORE IMPORTANT TO GET IT RIGHT  
THAN TO GET IT QUICKLY -- THOUGH THIS WAS NOT TO SAY  
THAT LONDON WOULD MISS THE FEBRUARY 11  
DEADLINE FOR RESPONDING TO THE SOVIET PROTEST. HITCH  
THEN TABLED THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL FOR REVISION OF  
PARA B:

"IT IS NOT CORRECT THAT THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT  
DETERMINES THE STATUS OF BERLIN OR ANY PART OF IT.  
IN RELATION TO BERLIN, THE FOUR POWERS ACT ON THE  
BASIS OF THEIR QUADRIPARTITE RIGHTS AND RESPON-  
SIBILITIES, AND OF THE CORRESPONDING WARTIME  
AGREEMENTS AND DECISIONS OF THE FOUR POWERS,  
WHICH WERE NOT AFFECTED BY THE QUADRIPARTITE  
AGREEMENT."

4. WITH REGARD TO THE ISSUE WHICH HIBBERT'S  
INSTRUCTIONS RAISED, CONCERNING THE DESIRABILITY OF  
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EMPHASIZING "ALLIED RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES"  
RATHER THAN "THE STATUS OF BERLIN," HITCH STATED THAT  
HIS AMBASSADOR HAD MADE IT CLEAR TO LONDON THAT THE  
UK BONN GROUP REP WOULD BE UNABLE TO CONTINUE THE  
DISCUSSION FURTHER WITHOUT A FULL PAPER SETTING  
OUT THE REASONING BEHIND WHAT APPEARED TO BE AN  
EVOLUTION IN LONDON'S THINKING. HE SAID THE EMBASSY  
HAD BEEN PROMISED SUCH A PAPER IN DUE COURSE.

5. FRG REP (HENZE) MADE THE FOLLOWING THREE POINTS  
IN RESPONSE TO THE BRITISH PRESENTATION:

A. HE THOUGHT WE SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO  
ANSWER THE SOVIET PROTEST, AND THE TIME IS SHORT.

B. HE WONDERED WHETHER IT WAS WISE TO GIVE SO  
LONG AN ANSWER TO A RATHER SHORT SOVIET  
STATEMENT, ONE WHICH HAD BEEN MADE WITH MUCH LESS  
EMPHASIS THAN OTHER SOVIET PROTESTS.

C. THE FRG WAS NOT OPPOSED TO CHANGING

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ESTABLISHED LANGUAGE IF THERE WAS A REASON FOR DOING SO, BUT IF WE DO SO WE SHOULD BE FULLY CONSCIOUS OF THE REASON. IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO DO SO IN THIS INSTANCE, WHERE WE ARE UNDER TIME PRESSURE AND THERE IS NO NEED FOR SUCH A DETAILED ANSWER.

5. HENZE CONCLUDED THAT HE WOULD THUS FAVOR USING THE ORIGINAL AD REF TEXT AND LEAVING THE MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION UNTIL HITCH HAD RECEIVED THE PROMISED PAPER FROM LONDON.

6. BOTH FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) AND US REP EXPRESSED FULL AGREEMENT WITH HITCH'S REMARKS. THE US REP ADDED THAT HE SAW NO NEED FOR FLESHING OUT THE SIMPLE

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STATEMENT IN THE ORIGINAL TEXT. IF THERE WERE  
SUCH A NEED, THE PROPOSED BRITISH LANGUAGE  
WOULD NOT SEEM TO MEET IT, IN AS MUCH AS IT WAS NOT  
RESPONSIVE TO THE SOVIET COMPLAINT.

WHAT WE WERE ANSWERING WAS THE SIMPLE SOVIET MIS-  
STATEMENT THAT THE QA HAD DETERMINED THE STATUS OF  
WEST BERLIN. US REP CONCLUDED THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS  
PERMITTED ACCEPTANCE ONLY OF THE FIRST SENTENCE OF  
THE UK TEXT.

7. HITCH THEN DISTRIBUTED THE FOLLOWING FALBACK  
LANGUAGE, WHICH WAS TAKEN FROM THE ALLIED DEMOGRAPHIC  
YEARBOOK NOTE OF APRIL 14, 1975:

"IT IS NOT CORRECT THAT THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT  
DETERMINES THE STATUS OF BERLIN OR ANY PART OF IT.  
THE QUADRIPARTITE STATUS OF GREATER BERLIN STEMS  
FROM THE ORIGINAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF  
THE FOUR POWERS. QUADRIPARTITE WARTIME AND POSTWAR  
AGREEMENTS AND DECISIONS BASED ON THESE RIGHTS AND  
RESPONSIBILITIES STIPULATED THAT GREATER BERLIN WAS  
TO BE A SPECIAL AREA UNDER THE JOINT AUTHORITY OF  
THE FOUR POWERS ENTIRELY DISTINCT FROM THE SOVIET  
ZONE OF OCCUPATION IN GERMANY."

8. THE OTHER THREE REPS STUCK BY THEIR PREFERENCE FOR  
A SINGLE SENTENCE -- EITHER THE ORIGINAL AD REF TEXT OR  
THE FIRST SENTENCE OF THE ABOVE BRITISH TEXTS.

9. HITCH AGREED TO REPORT ONCE MORE TO LONDON, AND  
THE BONN GROUP ADJOURNED TO AWAIT DEVELOPMENTS.

10. COMMENT: WE ADMIRE HIBBERT'S PERSEVERANCE,  
ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT CERTAIN WE UNDERSTAND HIS MOTIVES.

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HITCH IS CERTAIN THAT HE DOES NOT WISH TO SEE THE  
CONFERENCE CLOSE WITH THE SOVIET COMPLAINT  
UNANSWERED.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Type:** TE  
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